

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 21-31 with the following replacement paragraph:

A1
In addition, as used herein and described in more detail later herein, the term “audible signature”, “personal sound identifier” and “sound ID” are used interchangeably and refer to one or more short or abbreviated sound snippets or a selection of notes, tunes, themes, or melodies which identifies one user to one or more other users. These sound ~~IDs~~ IDs will typically be short melodies made up of short strings of notes which identifies a user to one or more other users. The personal sound identifiers may also be snippets or riffs of popular songs, themes or melodies, such as may be extracted or sampled from popular television and movie music themes or songs. In one embodiment, both the sound instant messages and personal sound identifiers may be selected by a user from a predetermined selection or the sound instant messages and personal sound identifiers may be created by a user individually, as discussed in more detail later herein.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 24 – page 10, line 7 with the following replacement paragraph:

A2
Referring to FIG. 2, an exemplary device for creating, storing, transmitting and receiving sound messages and/or personal sound identifiers is shown. As shown in FIG. 2, the device is a type of Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) 100. It is known that PDAs come in a variety of makes, styles, and configurations and only one out of the many makes, styles and configurations is shown. In one embodiment of the present invention, PDA 100 includes a ~~includes a~~ low profile box shaped case or housing 110 having a front face 114 extending from a top end 118 to a bottom end 122. Mounted or disposed within front face 114 is a display screen 126. Positioned proximate bottom end 122 are control buttons 132.

Display screen 126 may be activated and responsive to a stylus, control pen, a finger, or other similar facility, not shown. Disposed within housing 110 is a processor coupled with memory such as RAM, a storage facility and a power source, such as rechargeable batteries for powering the system. The microprocessor interacts with an operating system that runs selective software depending on the intended use of PDA 12. As used in accordance with the teachings herein, memory is loaded with software code for selecting/generating, storing and communicating via sound messages and/or personal sound identifiers with one or more other users in the system.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 23 – page 12, line 9 with the following replacement paragraph:

Referring now to FIGS. 3 and 4, an exemplary method and device is shown for creating and transmitting sound messages and/or personal sound identifiers between users in the system. As shown in FIG. 3, the user creates a sound message, step 136. A sound message may be created by simply ~~selected~~ selecting a sound message from a selection of pre-recorded sound messages or sound message may be newly created by a user, such as by employing a sound editor utility to construct a sound message. Once a sound message is created, the sound message is saved, step 140. Saving may be done locally on a user's personal communicative device by simply saving the sound message with, for example, a sound editor utility as a sound file on the device's storage facility. The user may then select or create an icon to be associated with the sound message, step 144. The icon may be selected from a selection of already existing icons or may be specially created by the user via a graphics utility or facility. In other embodiments, an icon may be assigned to the sound message automatically. Once an icon is selected/created and is now associated with a specific sound message, the user may send the sound message to any number of users in the system. To accomplish this, the user may select one or more users to send the sound message to, step 148. This may be accomplished, as discussed in more

A3
detail later herein, such as by selecting one or more user names from a directory of users. The user may then transmit the sound message to the selected users by selecting or activating the icon associated with the desired sound message, step 152.

Please replace the paragraph at page 21, line 21 – page 22, line 3 with the following replacement paragraph:

A4
Referring to FIG. 10, an exemplary messaging configuration is shown. In this embodiment, a message originator or sender 600 sends a message 610 to at least one message recipient or receiver 620. Message 610 is ~~send~~ sent via a message server 630 which receives message 610 from message sender 600 and provides message 610 to message recipient 620. Once message 610 is received by message recipient 620, message recipient 620 provides a message acknowledgement or ACK 670 back to message sender 600. A message listing 650 may be updated by message sender ~~650~~ 600 once the ACK 670 is received from message recipient 620 while a message listing 660 may be updated by message recipient 620 once message 620 is received. Updating message listing 660 by message recipient 620 prevents messages being duplicated, such as in the case of where message ACK 670 is not received by message sender 600 and consequently, message sender 600 re-sends another copy of message 610 to message recipient 620. In such an example, the re-sent message will be compared with the message listing by message recipient 620 and will be discarded if the re-sent message has already been tagged as being seen, as discussed in more details later herein.
